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Washington, DC 20231

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Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor: Sven Stjerneby

For A SUPPORT DEVICE FOR A CABLEWAY

Enclosed are:

- ☒ Four (4) Sheets of Drawings.
- ☐ An assignment of the invention to \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ A certified copy of a \_\_\_\_\_ application.
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ Other A Preliminary Amendment Deleting Multiple Dependent Claims

The filing fee has been calculated as follows:

			SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
	#1	#2	RATE	FEE	RATE	FEE
FOR: FILED EXTRA						
BASIC FEE				\$ 395.00		\$ 790.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	18	-20 = 0	x \$ 11 =	\$	OR x \$ 22 =	\$
INDEP CLAIMS	1	- 3 = 0	x \$ 40 =	\$	OR x \$ 80 =	\$
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			+ \$130 =	\$	OR + \$260 =	\$
If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in Col. 2.			TOTAL	\$	OR TOTAL	\$ 790.00
			ASSIGNMENT RECORDING FEE (\$40)	\$		\$
			TOTAL DUE	\$		\$ 790.00

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of )  
Sven Stjerneby ) Group Art Unit:  
Serial No. )  
Filed: ) Examiner:  
Title: A SUPPORT DEVICE FOR A )  
CABLEWAY )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
DELETING MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please enter the following amendment which deletes the multiple dependent claim.

IN THE CLAIMS

7. (Amended) A support device as claimed in [any of claims 2-5] claim 2, characterized by a fixing element introducable into a space defined between a lower surface of the upper portion of the support element and an upper surface of the bottom of the cableway.

Please add the following new claims:

--10. A support device as claimed in claim 3, characterized by a fixing element introducable into a space defined between a lower surface of the upper portion of the support element and an upper surface of the bottom of the cableway.

11. A support device as claimed in claim 4, characterized by a fixing element introducable into a space defined between a lower surface of the upper portion of the support element and an upper surface of the bottom of the cableway.

12. A support device as claimed in claim 5, characterized by a fixing element introducable into a space defined between a lower surface of the upper portion of the support element and an upper surface of the bottom of the cableway.

PATENT

13. A support device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the fixing element is introducable into said space by being pushed into the space from the side of the cableway.

14. A support device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the fixing element is introducable into said space by being pushed into the space from the side of the cableway.

15. A support device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the fixing element is introducable into said space by being pushed into the space from the side of the cableway.

16. A support device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the fixing element is introducable into an undercut groove provided at the lower surface of the upper portion of the support element.

17. A support device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the fixing element is introducable into an undercut groove provided at the lower surface of the upper portion of the support element.

18. A support device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the fixing element is introducable into an undercut groove provided at the lower surface of the upper portion of the support element.--

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The present invention relates to a support device for a cableway of the kind comprising longitudinally extending thread elements positioned at a distance from each other and transversely extending thread elements connecting the longitudinally extending thread elements.

The use of computer systems and other systems requiring cable connections to and between a large number of different work places has made it necessary to find rational ways for the laying of cables. For this purpose there has been developed so called cable ways, i.e. elongated ladder-like devices consisting of longitudinal and transverse elements. The cableways are fastened to wall surfaces, sealing surfaces and/or other support surfaces by means of different types of attachments and can support a large number of cables which are layed on and are by means of tying or in any other suitable way fixed to the cableways. The cableways can consist of a number of longitudinally extending thread elements positioned at a distance from each other and transversely extending thread elements connecting the longitudinally extending thread elements.

When branching off one or several cables from a cableway it is in certain cases desirable and even necessary that the cables leave the cableway with a radius of curvature which is not less than a certain value. This is important especially with regard to cables including optical fibres as the function of the optical fibres can be jeopardized if the cable comprising the optical fibres is bent to much.

The object of the invention is to provide a support device for a cableway of the kind in question providing that the cables branched off downwardly from the cableway are not subjected to an excessive bending.

In order to comply with this object the support device according to the invention is characterized in that it is connectable with the cableway for forming a support surface for the cables attached to the cableway and branched off downwardly therefrom in order to define the radius of curvature of the cables branched off from the cableway.

Preferably, the support surfaces are thereby provided by a support element in the form of a curved plate which is at an upper portion connectable with the transversely extending and/or longitudinally extending thread elements of the cableway.

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In a suitable embodiment of the support device according to the invention the support element is at the upper portion which is connectable with the cableway formed with slots so as to make it possible to displace the support element from a position below the cableway through the bottom of the cableway to a position in which said upper portion of the support element receives the longitudinally extending thread elements of the cableway in its said slots.

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Preferably the upper portion of the support element is formed with groove extending perpendicular to the slots and adapted to receive a transversely extending thread element of the cableway when the support element takes the position in which the longitudinally extending thread elements of the cableway are received in the slots. Thereby, the groove can be used for connecting the support element to the cableway. In this case the groove can be undercut and the part of the support element forming the groove can consist of a resilient material so that the support element can be forced to the position in which the groove receives the transversely extending thread element of the cableway.

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It is also possible to arrange the groove in such a way that the support element forms a hook-shaped portion, so that the groove can be arranged in the position in which the groove receives the transversely extending thread element by being hooked onto this element.

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The support element can be fixed to the cableway by means of a fixing element which is slidable into a space established between the upper surface of the bottom of the cableway and the lower surface of the upper portion of the support element positioned above the longitudinally extending thread elements of the cableway. When using this kind of fixing elements it is not necessary to use the groove of the support element for attaching the support element to the cableway. Thereby the groove is used only for receiving a transversely extending thread element of the cableway so that the upper

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portion of the support element can be positioned above the upper surface of the cableway. The fixing element makes it possible to attach the support element to the cableway also between the transversely extending thread elements in which case no transversely extending thread element is received in the groove of the support element.

The invention shall be described in the following with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a cableway supporting cables and being of the kind at which a support device according to the invention is intended to be used.

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Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a part of an embodiment of a support device according to the invention.

Fig. 3 is a section of the support device according to fig. 2.

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Figs. 4a, 4b and 4c schematically illustrate the connection of a support device according to fig. 2 and 3 to a cableway.

Fig. 5 is a section corresponding to fig. 3 of a second embodiment of a support device according to the invention.

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Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a further embodiment of a support device according to the invention.

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Fig. 7 are a section of two support devices of the kind shown in fig. 6 connected with a cableway in different positions.

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The cableway shown in fig. 1 to which a support device according to the invention shall be connected is of substantially U-shaped cross section. The cableway 2 has two side walls 4 and 6 and a bottom 8 consisting of longitudinally extending threads 10, 12 and 14 respectively. The longitudinally extending threads 10, 12 and 14 are connected with each other by means of transversely extending, U-shaped threads 16, the legs 18 of which are connected with the longitudinally extending threads 10 and 12 of the side walls 4 and 6, respectively, and the web portion 12 of which is connected with

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the longitudinally extending threads 14 of the bottom 8.

The cableway supports a number of cables 22 which by means of tying or in any other way are attached to the cableway.

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If one or several of the cables 22 shall be branched off downwardly from the cableway there is attached a support element 24 according to the invention to the cableway. A support element 24 consists of a curved plate 26 which is curved to the radius of curvature which  
10 the cable or cables 22 shall have when leaving the cableway. At an upper portion 28 the plate 26 has a bent edge portion 30 formed so that it can be hooked over the web portion 20 of one of the transversely extending threads 16 of the cableway. Thereby the longitudinally extending threads 14 forming the bottom 8 of the  
15 cableway are received in slots 32 in the plate 26. Thus, the plate 26 has a number of slots 32 corresponding the number of longitudinally extending threads of the bottom 8 of the cableway, the slots 32 being positioned at a distance from each other adapted to the distance between the longitudinally extending threads 14 of the  
20 cableway.

The support element 24 according to the invention is fixed to the cableway by means of a fixing element 34 formed as a support rule which is pushed into the space between the upper surface of the  
25 bottom 8 of the cableway, and the opposite lower surface of the upper portion 36 of the plate 26 positioned at the edge 28 of the plate and in which the slots 32 are provided. The fixing element 34 is fixed in the longitudinal direction of the cableway by the fact that the edge portions 38 and 40 of the fixing element engages a  
30 support edge 48 at the lower surface of the plate 26 and the opposite side surface of the web portion 20 of a transversely extending thread 16 of the cableway.

Figs. 4a, 4b and 4c illustrate the mounting of a support element  
35 according to the invention to a cableway. The support element 24 is mounted from the lower side of the cableway which means that the mounting can take place while the cables are supported on the cableway. In the first mounting step the support element 24 is hooked onto the web portion 20 of one of the transversely extending  
40 threads 16 by moving the bent edge portion 30 over said web portion

20. In the next step the support element is rotated upwardly to the position shown in fig. 4b in which the inner ends of the slots 32 engage one thread each of the longitudinally extending threads 14 forming the bottom 8 of the cableway. The fixing element 34 is thereupon pushed from the side of the cableway to the position according to fig. 4c in which the fixing element 34 engages the cableway and the support element 24 as described above.

The embodiment of the device according to the invention shown in fig. 5 is adapted to be used in such cases when the space below the cableway is restricted. Such a restricted space can make it impossible to conduct the rotation of the support element 24 necessary when mounting the support element in accordance with figs. 4a, 4b and 4c. Like the support element 24 of the embodiment described above the support element 44 according to fig. 5 consists of a curved plate 46 curved to the radius of curvature which the cable or cables 22 shall have when leaving the cableway. At one edge 48 of the upper portion the plate 46 has a somewhat undercut groove 50. At least the upper edge portion 52 of the plate 46 is manufactured from a resilient material, for example plastic, in such a way that the edge of the support element 44 can be forced over the web portion 20 of one of the transversely extending threads 16 of the cableway to the position shown in fig. 5. It is realized that the mounting of the support element 44 does not require a free space below the cableway in addition to the space occupied by the support element 44 in the mounted position thereof.

At its lower surface the edge portion 52 of the support element 44 has an undercut groove 54 for receiving a fixing thread 56 which can from the side of the support element 44 be introduced into the groove 54. The fixing thread 56 can be provided with any kind of handle (not shown) in the form of a loop or the like.

Preferably, the groove 50 at the edge 48 of the support element 44 is positioned so that the upper surface 60 of the upper portion 52 of the support element 44 when the support element 54 is connected with the cableway will be positioned in exactly the same plane as the plane of the upper surface of the bottom of the cableway, said surface being defined by the web portions 20 of the transversely extending threads 16 of the cableway.



Of course the support element 44 is in the same way as the support element 24 of the embodiment according to figs. 2-4 formed with slots receiving the longitudinally extending threads 14 of the cableway.

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When downwardly branching off one or more cable of the cable supported on the cableway the cable or cables will rest on the support element thereby providing the cable or cable with the desired radius of curvature which shall usually not be lower than 40 mm.

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The embodiment of the support device according to the invention shown in fig. 6 comprises a curved plate 62 forming two support elements 64 and an upper portion 66. The upper portion 66 is formed with slots 68, the number of slots 68 and the distances between the slots being adapted to the number of longitudinally extending threads of the cableway and the distances between the longitudinally extending threads. The upper portion 66 is also formed with an upwardly open groove 70 extending perpendicular to the slots and adapted to receive a transversely extending thread element of the cableway

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The embodiment of the support device shown in fig. 6 also comprises fixing elements 72 in the form of support rules having substantially the same length as the length of the curved plate.

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The support device of fig. 6 can be connected with the cableway as shown in fig. 7. In fig. 7 two support devices according to fig. 6 are connected with the cableway 2 in two different positions in relation to the transversely extending thread element 16 of the cableway 2. The support device shown to the left in fig. 7 is connected with the cableway between two transversely extending thread elements 16. The support device positioned between the transversely extending thread elements 16 is positioned with the support element 64 having the upper portion 66 positioned above the bottom of the cableway 2 defined by the longitudinally extending thread elements 14 of the cableway. The longitudinally extending thread elements 14 of the cableway are received in the slots 68 in the upper portion 66 of the curved plate 62. The support elements 64 are retained in this position by means of the fixing elements 72

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which have been pushed into the spaces defined between the lower surface of the upper portion 66 of the support elements 64 and the upper surfaces of the longitudinally extending thread elements 14 of the cableway 2. In the position shown to the left in fig. 7 no  
5 transversely extending thread element is received in the groove 70.

In the embodiment shown to the right in fig. 7 the support elements 64 are positioned in the same relationship with the longitudinally extending thread elements 14 as in the position shown to the left in  
10 fig. 7. However, in the position shown to the right in fig. 7 a transversely extending thread element 16 is received in the groove 70.

It is realized that the support device according to the invention  
15 can be modified within the scope of the following claims.

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## C L A I M S

1. A support device for a cableway of the kind comprising a number of longitudinally extending thread elements positioned at a distance from each other and transversely extending thread elements connecting the longitudinally extending thread elements, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d in that the support device is connectable with the cableway for forming a support surface for cables attached to the cableway and being branched off downwardly therefrom in order to define the radius of curvature of the branched off cables.
2. A device as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the support device comprises a support element preferably constituted by a curved plate which is connectable with the cableway at an upper portion thereof.
3. A device as claimed in claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the upper portion of the support element is formed with slots making it possible to displace the support element from the lower side of the cableway up through the bottom of the cableway to a position in which the longitudinally extending thread elements of the cableway are received in the slots of the upper portion of the cableway.
4. A support device as claimed in claim 3, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d in that the upper portion of the support element constitutes a downwardly bent edge portion of the element and is adapted to be hooked over a transversely extending thread element of the cableway when connecting the support element thereto.
5. A support device as claimed in claim 3, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d in that the upper portion is formed with a groove extending perpendicular to the slots and adapted to receive a transversely extending thread element of the cableway.
6. A support device as claimed in claim 5, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d in that the groove is undercut.
7. A support device as claimed in any of claims 2 - 5, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by a fixing element introducable into a

space defined between a lower surface of the upper portion of the support element and an upper surface of the bottom of the cableway.

8. A support device as claimed in claim 7, c h a r a c t e r -  
5 i z e d in that the fixing element is introducable into said space  
by being pushed into the space from the side of the cableway.

9. A support device as claimed in claim 7, c h a r a c t e r -  
i z e d in that the fixing element is introducable into an undercut  
10 groove provided at the lower surface of the upper portion of the  
support element.

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## A B S T R A C T

A support device for a cableway of the kind which comprises a number of longitudinally extending thread elements positioned at a distance from each other and transversely extending thread elements connecting the longitudinally extending thread elements is connectable with the cableway for forming a support surface for cables attached to the cableway and branched off downwardly therefrom, the support device having the object of defining the radius of curvature of the branches off cables. (Fig. 2)

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## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A SUPPORT DEVICE FOR A CABLEWAY  
the specification of which:

☒ [ X ] is attached hereto.

☐ [ ] was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Priority Claimed

_____	_____	_____	[ ] [ ]
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120, of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint John F. Hoffman, Regis. No. 26,280; Anthony Niewyk, Regis. No. 24,871; Kevin R. Erdman, Regis. No. 33,687; Brian C. Pauls, Regis. No. 40,122; Michael D. Smith, Regis. No. 40,181; Arthur R. Whale, Regis. No. 18,778; Lawrence A. Steward, Regis. No. 32,309; Edward J. Prein, Regis. No. 37,212; James D. Hall, Regis. No. 24,893 and Ken C. Decker, Regis. No. 25,422; of BAKER & DANIELS, as attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Fig.1.

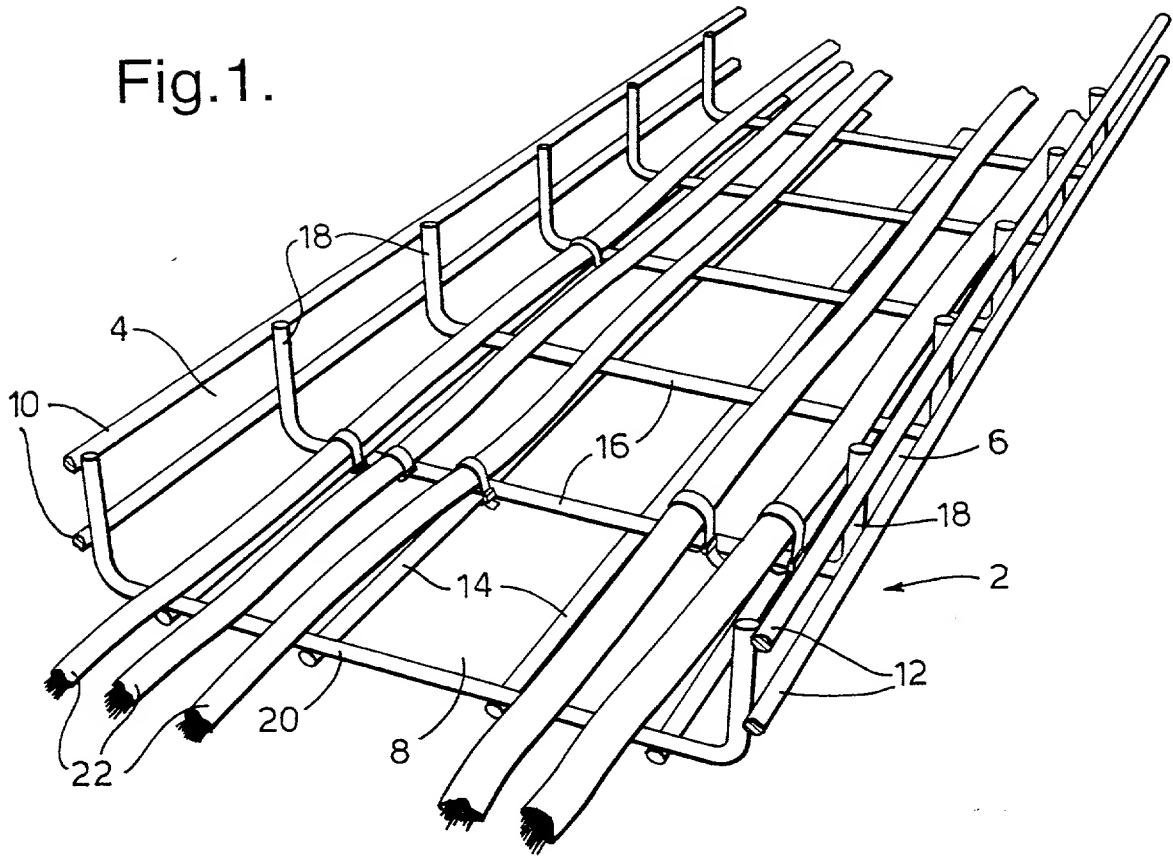


Fig.2.

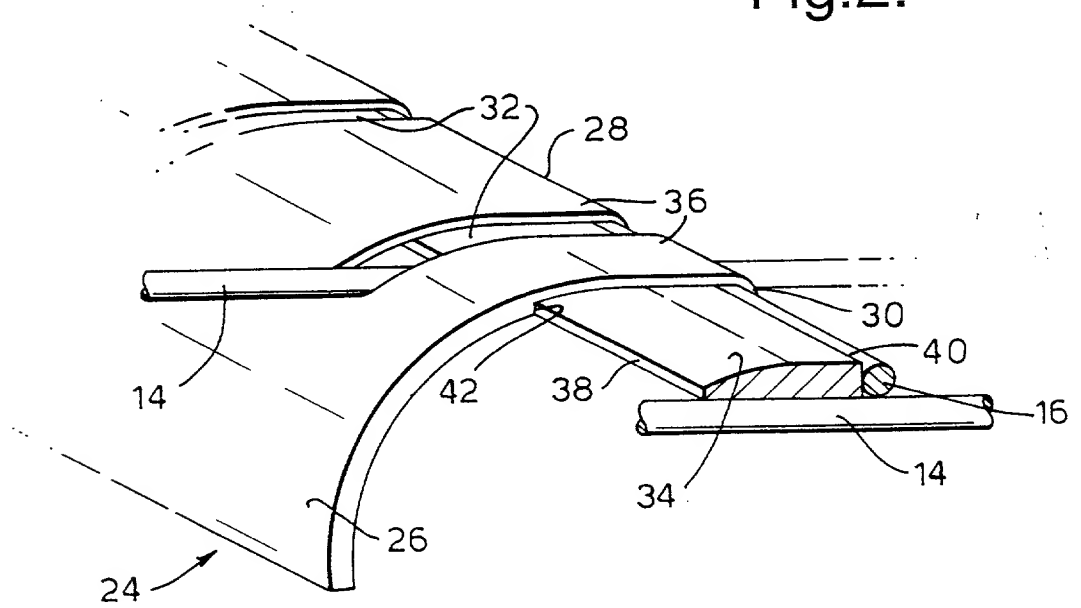


Fig.3.

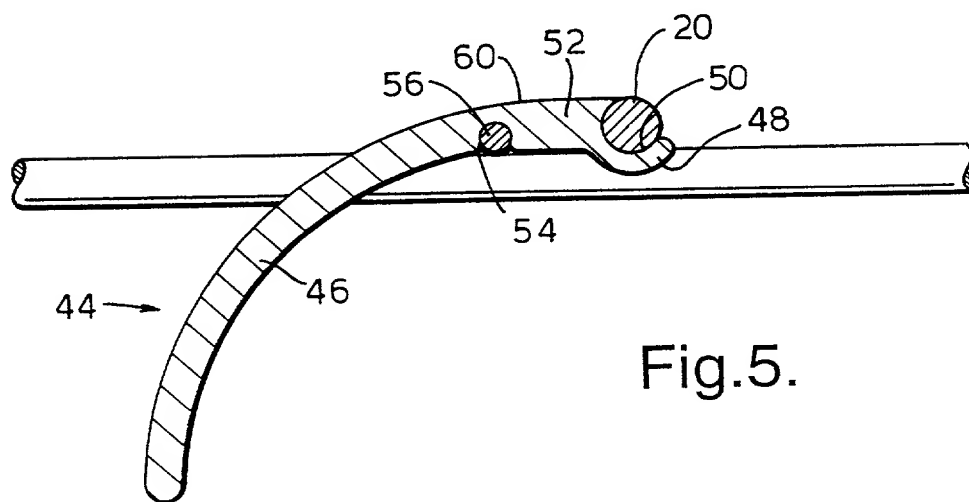
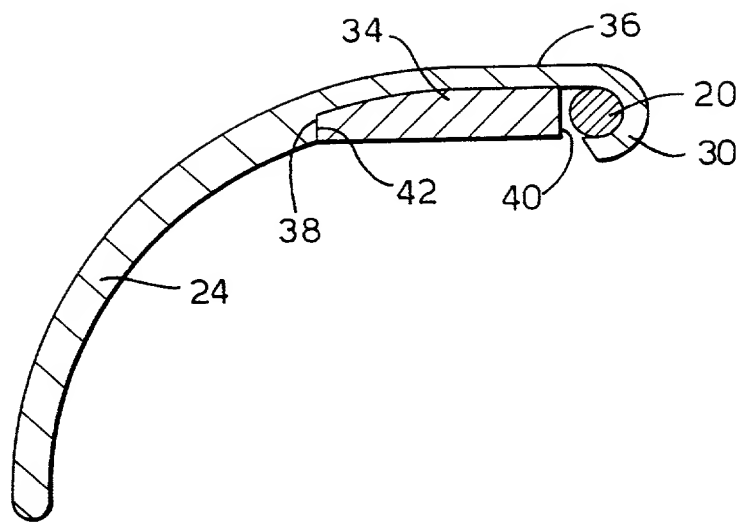


Fig.5.



Fig.4a.

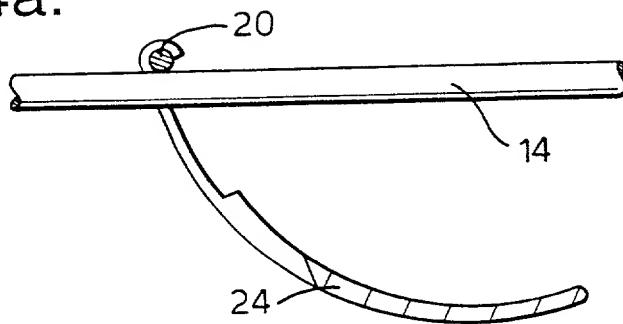


Fig.4b.

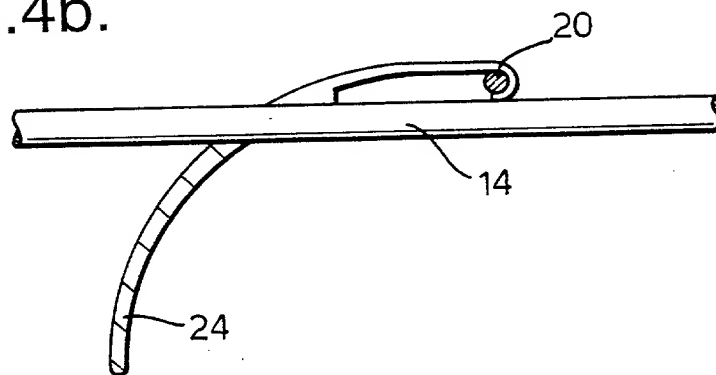


Fig.4c.

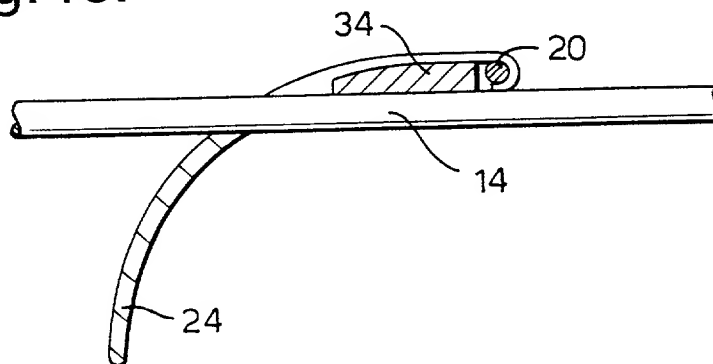


Fig.6.

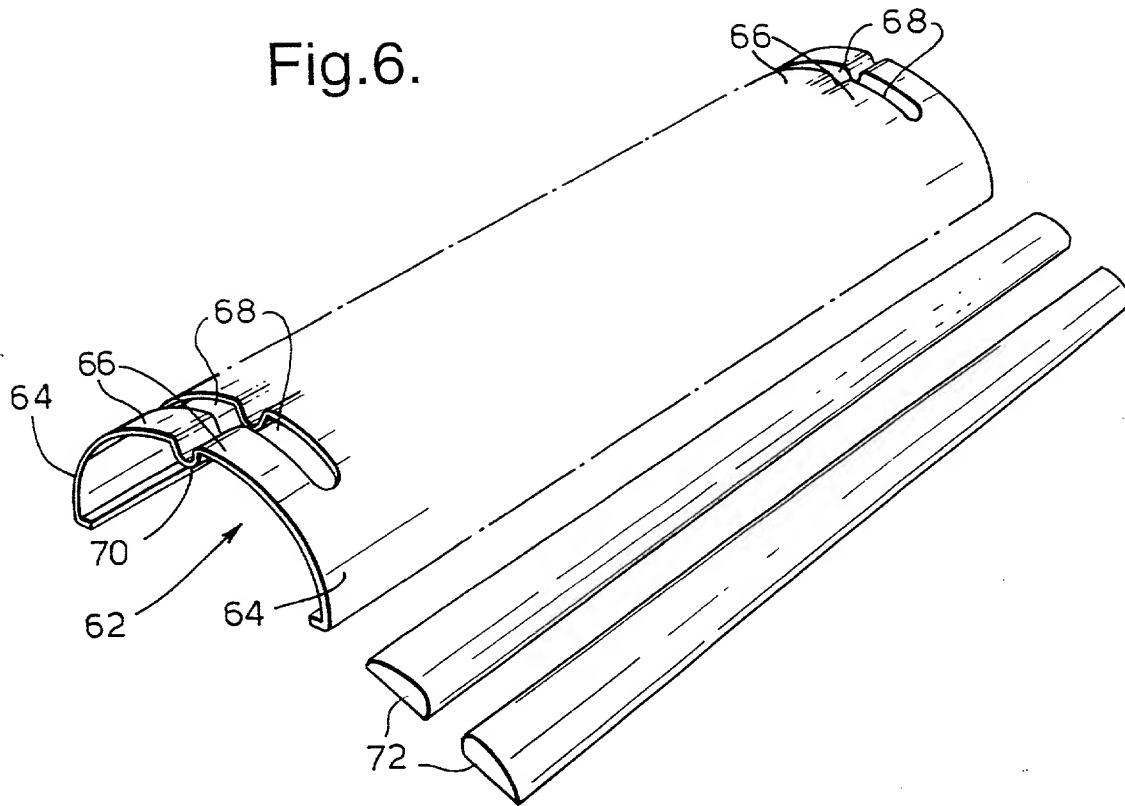


Fig.7.

